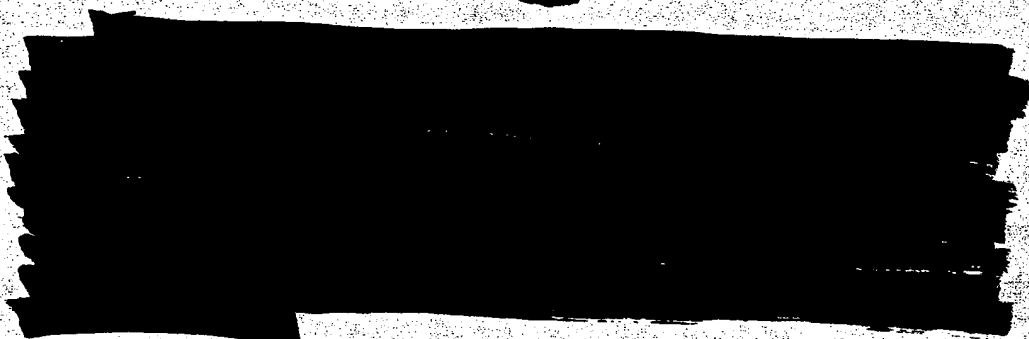


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SITUATION REPORT

POLAND

Recent Soviet commentary has remained relatively positive on the Polish situation although privately some Soviets have a negative view of developments there.



A long "theoretical" article in *Pravda* on Friday took a more flexible line, however, by providing an ideological justification for distinctive approaches to trade union organizational questions in different socialist states. While charging that "work stoppages" in Poland have played into the hands of "antisocialist elements," the *Pravda* article seemed to indicate that Moscow is willing to accept--however grudgingly--some form of independent trade unions in Poland. But the article also made it clear that Solidarity's independence must be kept within bounds; *Pravda* indicated that strikes--while understandable in light of past mistakes by the Polish Government and official trade unions--are unacceptable in any socialist society.

On Sunday, Moscow for the first time took note of US plans for "countermeasures against the contingency of a Russian intervention in Poland." While insisting that the proposals Secretary Muskie made at the NATO ministerial meeting in Brussels earlier this month would find little support in Western Europe, the *Krasnaya*

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Zvezda item on Friday gave more attention than usual to the potential costs--in terms of Soviet relations with Western Europe--of a military intervention in Poland. At the same time, in a departure from standard Soviet practice, *Krasnaya Zvezda* made no attempt to deny that the Soviets might intervene in Poland. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the Kania regime was successful in providing adequate holiday food supplies to placate, if not satisfy, consumers. The holiday rationing of meat and butter appeared to be a moderate success with guarantees of quality foodstuffs improving the mood of the Polish consumer. Some food probably was diverted from Western export to satisfy domestic demand. The increase in holiday market supplies this year followed the trends of previous years, but a post-holiday reversion to serious shortages accompanied by strong public irritability seems likely. [REDACTED]

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